

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated December 7, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 7, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 15-39 and 42-44 remain pending in the application after entry of this response and are shown above. Claims 1-14 and 40-41 have been cancelled by Applicants. Claims 29-39 and 44 are rejected and Claim 41 is objected to. Claims 15-28, and 42-43 are allowed by the Examiner. Claims 15, 19, 22-25, and 29 have been amended. No new material has been added by the amendments. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 29-34, 36-39, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Palmer* (5,580,114) in view of *Roark* (3,208,788). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Regarding claims 29-34, 36-39, and 44, *Palmer* and *Roark*, alone or in combination, do not teach, suggest, or disclose a stop ring disposed between the gripping member and the piston as recited in amended claim 29. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claim 29 is patentable over *Palmer* in view of *Roark*. Applicant further submits that claims 30-34, 36-39, and 44 are also patentable over *Palmer* in view of *Roark* since they depend on claim 29.

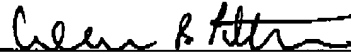
Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Palmer* in view of *Roark* as applied to claim 29 above, and further in view of *Taylor* (5,765,638). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Regarding claim 35, *Palmer*, *Roark*, and *Taylor*, alone or in combination, do not teach, suggest, or disclose a stop ring disposed between the gripping member and the piston as recited in amended claim 29. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claim 35 is patentable over *Palmer* in view of *Roark*, and further in view of *Taylor*, since it depends on claim 29.

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Conclusion

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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